

THE PLAIN DEALER

THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Lunch & lessons are carryout only



Tamyra Johnson, 26, and her children picked up free meals and classwork from Waverly Elementary School in Cleveland on Monday. The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is offering to continue breakfast and lunch meals for kids while schools are closed to address the coronavirus pandemic. Photos by Lisa DeJong, The Plain Dealer

Coping: Cleveland schools make do during statewide shutdown

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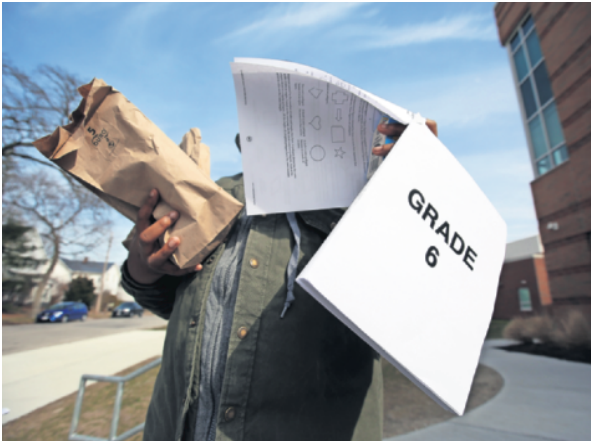
Waverley Elementary School may have been closed for lessons Monday, but not for lunch. Bagged lunches with peanut butter sandwiches, apples, carrots or string cheese, and yogurt were ready at the school on Cleveland's near West Side for students and caregivers to take home. Breakfast bags with Pop Tarts and a pear also were ready as the Cleveland school district kept a version of its school lunch program running during the statewide school shutdown ordered to address the spread of the coronavirus.

"This is actually helping me out because my refrigerator just stopped," said Lachelle Jordan, a mother of four children, two of who attend that school. Jordan and her brother Bradon Gaston packed lunch bags into a box for kids at home.

"It gives the kids some extra food throughout the week that normally I wouldn't have," she said.

Waverley is one of 22 Cleveland elementary schools that will offer two bagged meals a day throughout the three-

SEE LUNCH, A5



Antonio Smith, 13, a sixth-grade student at Waverly Elementary School, picks up a homework packet along with free meals on Monday.

THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Workers cope with caution, doing their jobs

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Lt. George Lichman of the Rocky River Police Department opened the driver's side door of a police SUV in search of a piece of essential safety equipment: a pump bottle of Purell.

"We can't get our paws on enough of these," he said. "There are certain things in police work, it's the nature of the business, where there is going to be some physical contact. We are encouraging officers to immediately get back, don't touch their mouth and nose and wash their hands."

The coronavirus pandemic has forced Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine to close schools, restaurants and libraries. On Monday afternoon, he recommended canceling Tuesday's primary election. The governor's directives have forced most

9-to-5ers to isolate themselves in their homes, work from there and keep their distance from others.

Others' jobs dictate they continue to interact with the public.

Police officers, firefighters, aides at nursing homes, dentists, flight attendants, cashiers and janitors, to name a few occupations, by necessity come into contact with so many people on a daily basis that they are at the greatest risk of becoming ill, according to a New York Times' analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SEE JOBS, A9

Stocks plunge with virus upending economy. A7

Browns have deals with tight end, tackle, QB. B1

ELECTION 2020

Officials to order polls closed despite ruling

Health director to declare 'health emergency' over ongoing pandemic

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Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced late Monday that polls will be closed on Tuesday for the presidential primary election, citing a "health emergency" tied to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

DeWine's statement, issued Monday at 10:12 p.m., reads in full: "During this time when we face an unprecedented public health crisis, to conduct an election tomorrow would force poll workers and voters to place themselves at a unacceptable health risk of contracting coronavirus."

"As such, Health Director Dr. Amy Acton will order the polls closed as a health emergency. While the polls will be closed tomorrow, Secretary of State Frank LaRose will seek a remedy through the courts to extend voting options so that every voter who wants to vote will be granted that opportunity."

The unprecedented development caps a chaotic day that began when DeWine and other state officials said in the afternoon they would seek to postpone the election for health reasons.

Just hours before, DeWine and LaRose announced they would seek to postpone the election until June 2, citing the expanding threat posed by COVID-19. Through what amounted to a legal maneuver, state officials backed a lawsuit filed by two older Franklin County voters with health problems who said going to the polls would make them worry for their lives, and continuing the election as planned would violate their constitutional rights.

But shortly before 7 p.m. Monday evening,

SEE PRIMARY, A5

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

Court suspends new marriage licenses

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The Cuyahoga County Probate Court has stopped issuing new marriage licenses due to coronavirus concerns.

The surprise announcement, made on March 15, was posted to the court's website under a notice titled simply "Probate Court COVID-19 Information."

The court said it was suspending the issuance of all new marriage licenses until further notice, with very few exceptions.

"Special arrangements with the Court will be available for parties who believe they MUST obtain a marriage license due to exigent circumstances," the notice states. "Please contact the Marriage Department by phone 216-443-8921 if you believe you need a license issued immediately."

All in-person hearings scheduled at the Probate Court are canceled, according to the announcement, with some hearings taking place via video or phone conference. The court is still open with limited hours for Emergency Guardianships and Civil Commitments.

But all other in-person filings, including marriage-license applications, are not being accepted. The court ask visitors to remain home until further notice is posted on the Court's web page.

Ohio law requires couples to apply for a marriage license in person in the probate court in the county in where either resides. If neither is a resident of Ohio, the application must

SEE MARRIAGE, A5

Lotteries, A2 Go & Do, A2 Metro, A3 Nation & World, A4 Deaths, A9 Forum, A10 Sports, B1 TV listings, B6 Shows 47/38

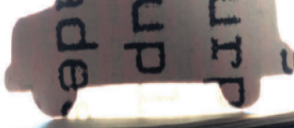
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